

7th Civil Support Command

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2009-07-07-1

July 7, 2009

CADET FINDS RESERVE UNIT IN EUROPE

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Osvaldo Sanchez
7th Civil Support Command Public Affairs

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Living and learning in Paris, the “City of Lights,” a Vermont college U.S. Army ROTC cadet found a “home away from home” in Kaiserslautern, Germany, with the U.S. Army Reserve 7th Civil Support Command.

Cadet Alexander Nishida says the biggest challenge facing his overseas college education isn’t money, it’s finding a place to conduct a weekend battle assembly with the Army Reserve.

With hundreds of Army Reserve units spread across the United States, it is usually easy to find one to train with while attending college. But overseas it is a different story.

“You can’t just go anywhere and pull drill,” said Nishida, a Chicago native, who is studying in the Cultural Experiences Abroad program in Paris for a semester.

CEA provides college study abroad programs to U.S. and Canadian students in 15 countries and 28 cities around the world, intended to immerse students in a different culture and build international relations.

Nishida enlisted in the Army Reserve in his senior year of high school and went through Military Police One Station Unit Training from June to November 2007. He then

enrolled at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt., and joined the ROTC Simultaneous Membership Program offered at the University of Vermont.

Nishida is assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion/391st Regiment, 4th Brigade, 98th Division (IT), 108th Training Command, from Colchester, Vt.

Nishida travels to neighboring Germany to conduct his battle assembly with the 7th CSC, the U.S. Army's only Reserve command on foreign soil.

Reserve Soldiers can conduct training with another unit by rescheduling training to meet the requirements of the Army Reserve and maintaining a satisfactory status with their assigned unit.

Nishida said attending 7th CSC battle assemblies gives him academic and military experience while studying abroad.

"I wanted to further understand how the Army and the Army Reserve operate in Germany and Italy. I feel that experience on a military installation overseas will give me a larger range of experiences to draw from in my career, as a cadet and then in my first years as a junior officer."

Another Soldier can relate to Nishida's story.

Staff Sgt. Brett McMillan of the 200th Military Police Command at Fort Meade, Md., who studies in Holland, said, "I had just re-enlisted two months before being given the opportunity to pursue a master's degree and live in Amsterdam for 11 months. I was very glad when my command agreed to let me reschedule training with another Army unit. I used to drive 18 miles to my battle assembly, now it's '500 kilometers to Kaiserslautern,' but it beats flying home every month for battle assembly weekends."

The command is undergoing transformation, and Nishida is witness to it. He attended weekend battle assemblies with the 7th CSC until the end of June.



U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Alexander Nishida poses for a photo on the Cultural Experiences Abroad campus in Paris where he attends his classes. Nishida is enrolled at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt., and joined the ROTC Simultaneous Membership Program offered at the University of Vermont. (Photo by Sarah Lane)



U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Alexander Nishida poses for a photo in Santa Rosa, Calif. with Pvt. Zachary Doty-Pettit, a Soldier who attended Basic Training with Nishida. Nishida visited Doty-Petit before he deployed to Iraq. (Courtesy photo)



U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Alexander Nishida conducts pre-marksmanship training at the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare School's Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vt. (Courtesy photo)



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